(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this tribunal would be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Checking the passengers without valid ticket

†633. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special squads of railways have carried out special checking to apprehend the passengers travelling without valid ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

(b) the number of passengers apprehended from January, 2001 till date who were found without ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this checking shows that many officers of Railways are involved in this illegal activity and if so, the action taken by Government against them; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to see that travelling without ticket is controlled and the responsibility of officers is also fixed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No separate statistics regarding the checks conducted by the special squads is maintained. During the period April, 2001 to May, 2005, 78,050 lakh persons were apprehended travelling without ticket/with irregular ticket including unbooked luggage.

(c) As and when any Railway Officer/Staff is found involved in any illegal activities, suitable action is taken against him as per rules.

(d) Besides regular checks some measures are taken, like—

(i) The minimum penalty for ticketless/irregular travel has been increased to Rs.250/- from Rs.50/-

(ii) Special checks are conducted in association with Police and Railway Magistrates.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Ambush Checks, Fortress Checks, Cross Country Checks and Replacement Checks etc. are conducted from time to time.

(iv) Intensive Check Post Scheme has been introduced for effectively controlling the ticketless/irregular travelling as well as ticketing frauds.

Track breach at Warangal

634. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious track breach occured between Warangal and Hyderabad due to rains recently;

(b) the causes of the track breach at Warangal in the month of July, 2005;

(c) whether Railways have not selected proper routes to ensure that rain water does not impact tracks or local topography;

(d) the steps to be taken to study on what system the Railways should follow to ensure that rain water and flooded rivers do not harm local people; and

(e) what steps will be taken to ensure that adequate number of outlets and drains are built beneath tracks to avoid creating floods by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to heavy rains on 09-07-05, two irrigation tanks on the upstream side of the track failed resulting in breaches of railway track for the length of 150 metres between Ghanapur and Nashkal stations on Secunderabad-Kazipet section.

Two irrigation tanks, namely Rajavaram tank situated about 3.5 km from the Railway track and Chinnapendiyal tank situated at about 0.3 kms on the upstream side had breached as a result of sudden rise in inflow into these tanks, due to breaches of several smaller tanks on upstream sides of these tanks. Consequently, water gushed towards the railway track resulting in water over flowing the railway track causing breaches.